



Public Service Announcement
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**CITY WARNS:
AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS CAN CAUSE BLACK ICE**

The City of Greenville Public Works Department is asking residents and business owners to turn off their automatic sprinkler systems when temperatures are expected to reach freezing (32 degrees F) to prevent the formation of “black ice” on city sidewalks and streets.

Black ice is a thin formation of ice that occurs when water freezes on a sidewalk or road surface. Because it is so thin and clear, the dark underlying road surface easily shows through, lending to its common name. Black ice is often formed by residual sleet, rain or melted snow. But it can also be caused by the drainage and run off from automatic sprinkler systems.

Driving or walking on black ice can be particularly dangerous because it is extremely slick and difficult to spot, especially in shady areas.

Interim City Public Works Director Brian Watson says that “the City of Greenville is prepared to sand and de-ice major streets and bridges in the case of an ice or snow storm. However, ice forming on streets due to sprinkler system runoff is difficult to detect and we are asking for citizen cooperation to keep our sidewalks and streets safe during the winter months.”

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